GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1781
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2015
Bilateral Ties with ASEAN
Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Nagar Shri Rodmal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is aiming at better and stronger bilateral ties with ASEAN countries and if so, the details of steps taken in this regard;

(b) whether several road projects connecting neighbouring as well as ASEAN countries are on the anvil and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is likely to be completed and the States that are likely to be benefitted/effected thereby;

(d) whether the Government is also contemplating to support the initiative to create an economic federation with ASEAN including adoption of a single currency; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) Yes. The India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership has acquired new momentum with the announcement of the "Act-East Policy" at the 12th ASEAN-India Summit in 2014. The Government has in January 2015 set up a separate Indian Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta to strengthen engagement with ASEAN and ASEAN-centric processes. The ASEAN-India Agreements on Trade in Services and Investment have entered into force on 1 July 2015, completing the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area, and will give a further boost to bilateral trade and investment ties. An ASEAN-India Plan of Action for the period 2016-20 has also been adopted at the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers" Meeting in August 2015, identifying concrete initiatives and areas of cooperation along the politico-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars. Prime Minister"s participation in the 13th ASEAN-India Summit on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur has reinforced India"s multi-faceted engagement with ASEAN countries.

(b) Yes. The Government is assisting in the construction of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway (road in Kalewa-Yargi section and 69 bridges on Tamu-Kalewa section), as well as the road component of the Kaladan Multi- Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar.

(c) The waterway and road components of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project are scheduled to be completed by mid-2016 and mid-2019 respectively. The project will benefit the North-Eastern states of India.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.